

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a very solemn time for this Nation. It is a solemn time for American families whose young men and women are facing danger in far-away shores. I think it is also a time when we grab hold of a document that has given us comfort for so many centuries, and that is the Constitution, and Mr. Speaker, I believe the Constitution demands that this Congress address the question of going to war with Iraq.

It is delineated in the Constitution that the Congress is the institution to declare war, and so I think it is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, for the President to come to this Congress, similarly as was done in a faraway country with Prime Minister Blair, who discussed this with the Parliament on yesterday, a solemn decision, a question of war and peace, a choice of life over death, options other than war.

Many of these issues can be discussed on behalf of the American people. Let us not be afraid to hear both support and opposition. That is what democracy is all about.

My question is, is this Congress going to remain deadly silent on the question of going to war with Iraq?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CIBOLA WILDLIFE REFUGE BOUNDARY CORRECTION

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 417) to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 417

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVOCATION OF PUBLIC LAND ORDER WITH RESPECT TO LANDS ERRONEOUSLY INCLUDED IN CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, CALIFORNIA.

Public Land Order 3442, dated August 21, 1964, is revoked insofar as it applies to the following described lands: San Bernardino Meridian, T11S, R22E, sec. 6, all of lots 1, 16, and 17, and SE¼ of SW¼ in Imperial County, California, aggregating approximately 140.32 acres.

SEC. 2. RESURVEY AND NOTICE OF MODIFIED BOUNDARIES.

The Secretary of the Interior shall, by not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) resurvey the boundaries of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, as modified by the revocation under section 1;

(2) publish notice of, and post conspicuous signs marking, the boundaries of the refuge determined in such resurvey; and

(3) prepare and publish a map showing the boundaries of the refuge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to strongly support this legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER). He has done a superb job of representing his constituents, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves operating a concession within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

This concession, known as Walters Camp, has existed since 1962, and it has provided recreational opportunities to thousands of Americans. In fact, it is one of the few places along the lower Colorado River that offers such a variety of healthy outdoor activity.

About 3 years ago the concessionaire was advised by the Fish and Wildlife Service that Walters Camp was inadvertently added to the Cibola Refuge and that corrective legislation was necessary. This is the goal of this measure, to correct this mistake, and there is no opposition to returning the title of this property to the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the author of the bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time, and I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, first, I wanted to give my thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, for his leadership and for understanding how important this bill that deals with a fairly small parcel of land, how important this is to working folks in southern California who need a place to get away from the boss and be with the family and enjoy rock hounding and fishing and canoeing and all the neat things one does on the Colorado River. The chairman, in his usual, very plain-spoken and straightforward style, has explained this very well.

This is 140 acres of land, known as Walters Camp, and that is probably named after a gentleman who was a gold miner on the Colorado River at one time. It was a concession that was operated for average folks who could come in and have a great time and rock hound and canoe and fish.

Unfortunately, in the land withdrawal for the Cibola Refuge in 1964, it was mistakenly added into the withdrawal.

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Fish and Wildlife have testified on several occasions that it does not have

a significant value in terms of wildlife, and so they have no problem with righting this wrong and correcting this mistake.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), who is doing a superb job of chairing this committee and allowing me to move this bill, bringing it forward; and hopefully we can get the other body to act on it and restore a good measure of outdoor enjoyment to working families in Southern California. I thank the chairman, and I hope that we can pass this with an overwhelming vote.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, before I get to my remarks on H.R. 417, this is the first opportunity I have had to be on the floor with the new chairman of the Committee on Resources, and I wanted to welcome the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the new chairman of the Committee on Resources, and say that I look forward to working with the gentleman.

As stated by the previous speakers, the overall purpose of this legislation is to resolve a long-standing error that included a preexisting concession known as Walters Camp within the original 1964 public land withdrawal that created the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge.

In the 107th Congress, the Committee on Resources determined after a lengthy investigation that the inclusion of this concession was a genuine error in the original withdrawal and agreed that this error should be corrected.

H.R. 417 would make that legal adjustment. But just as important, this legislation will also ensure that all title interests to the 140 acres of land revoked from the Cibola Refuge remain public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. Allow me to be clear: nothing is being conveyed to the concession operator as part of this legislation. It is simply a transfer of lands from one Federal agency to another.

This legislation has also retained amendments adopted last year by the Committee on Resources to require the Secretary of the Interior to resurvey and conspicuously mark the new adjusted boundaries. These are prudent actions that should help reduce the likelihood of future encroachment by off-road vehicles onto the Cibola Refuge, which has been a growing management concern for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In closing, H.R. 417 is commonsense legislation. The bill will correct a technical error that could not be resolved administratively. And furthermore, it will help protect fragile refuge habitats